

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - LANDS AND WATERS

REF: PANAMA 4676

SUMMARY: SUBJECTS COVERED DURING THREE OBSERVATION VISITS
IN CANAL ZONE BY PANAMANIAN LANDS AND WATERS TECHNICAL TEAM
INDICATE DEVELOPMENT OF RATIONALE SUPPORTING THEIR REQUESTS
FOR CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS IN U.S. POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, EMBASSY AND MILGROUP ASSISTED IN
ARRANGING THREE OBSERVATION VISITS IN CANAL ZONE FOR PANA-
MANIAN LANDS AND WATERS TECHNICAL TEAM JUNE 29-JULY 1.
GENERAL AREAS AND PARTICIPANTS IN EACH CASE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1500: FT. AMADOR, CURUNDU,
ALBROOK. PANAMANIAN: JAEN, VELASQUEZ, DEL RIO. US:
WALLER, SOUTHCOM; HINSON, EMBASSY.

B. THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1100: BALBOA PORT AND INDUSTRIAL
AREA. PANAMANIAN: JAEN, VELASQUEZ, CANO, DEL RIO, MIGUEL
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ULLOA OF PORT AUTHORITY STAFF. US: GOODRICH, PANCANAL:
HINSON, EMBASSY.

C. FRIDAY, JULY 1, 0800: FAP HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHT AND
GROUND TOUR OF COCO SOLO-FRANCE FIELD, DAVIS, GULICK, TELFERS
ISLAND. PANAMANIAN: CONTRERAS, DEL RIO, JAEN, VELASQUEZ,
ZAMBRANO. US: WALLER, SOUTHCOM.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS OR OPINIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN GROUP, DURING THE TOURS OR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEM, WHICH INDICATE SOME DIRECTIONS IN WHICH THEIR THINKING IS MOVING.

3. AMADOR: DEL RIO INQUIRED PARTICULARLY AS TO DEMARCATION BETWEEN ARMY AND NAVY AREAS OF AMADOR, AND WHETHER ALL WERE CONSIDERED PART OF "FOR AMADOR". HE ASKED CAPACITY OF LINE OF BARRACK/OFFICE STRUCTURES IN 193RD BRIGADE HEAD-QUARTERS COMPLEX; WALLER REPLIED THAT THOSE STRUCTURES STILL USED FOR BARRACKS CURRENTLY CONTAINED ABOUT 20 TWO-MAN ROOMS ON EACH OF TWO FLOORS, TOTAL ABOUT 80 MEN PER STRUCTURE.

4. CURUNDU AREA: DEL RIO, SECONDED BY VELASQUEZ AND JAEN, DELIVERED A HOMILY AT CURUNDU ANTENNA FIELD ABOUT PROPENSITY OF STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE, AND EMBARRASSING PROXIMITY OF THIS MILITARY INSTALLATION, AS WELL AS CURUNDU HOUSING AREAS, TO SLUMS OF "HOLLYWOOD" AND TO UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE CASE EVEN FOR AN INSTALLATION UNDER PANAMANIAN FLAG. DEL RIO SIGHED AND SAID IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY THE CASE THEN.

5. ALBROOK: WHILE DRIVING ALONG CANFIELD AVENUE FROM CURUNDU SERVICE STATION TOWARD ALBROOK MAIN GATE, EMBOFF HEARD BYPLAY BETWEEN DEL RIO AND JAEN. THEY SEEMED SURPRISED THAT THIS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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A "RESIDENTIAL STREET", RATHER THAN THE MAIN HIGHWAY WHICH THEY HAD THOUGHT ITS RED MARKING ON MAP INDICATED. DEL RIO FINALLY REMARKED THAT THIS (I.E., ALBROOK HOUSING AREA) APPEARED TO BE A SINGLE COMMUNITY WHICH CULD NOT RATIONALLY BE DIVIDED ALONG THIS STREET. AT HANGERS USED BY IIAFA, JAEN AND VELASQUEZ SPOKE SEVERAL TIMES OF THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT THE SCHOOL WAS TO MOVE TO HOWARD AFB SHORTLY. WHILE DRIVING BETWEEN RUNWAY AND IIAFA HANGERS, DEL RIO ASKED JAEN WHERE THE EXACT LINE WAS. JAEN REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN FIXED; EXACT DEMARCATION OF AREAS UNDER DISCUSSION WOULD INVOLVE EXTENSIVE JOINT VERIFICATION OF EXACT DELIMITATIONS, AND COULD TAKE A YEAR OR MORE. SUCH VERIFICATION, JAEN TOLD DEL RIO, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE TREATY ITSELF, NOR WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE TO COMPLETE IT IN TIME.

6. BALBOA INDUSTRIAL AREA: PANAMANIAN REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM PANCANAL ON JULY 1 A MAP INDICATING FACILITIES AND AREA INCLUDED IN NAVAL INDUSTRIAL RESERVE SHIPYARD. THEY PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO CURRENT UTILIZATION OF THOSE FACILITIES IDENTIFIED IN A US TECHNICAL TEAM MEMORANDUM AS TO BE RETAINED BY CANAL ENTITY. JAEN LATER REMARKED DISGUSTEDLY THAT IN SEVERAL CASES, THE FACILITIES CONSISTED OF A FEW PIECES

OF MACHINERY STANDING IN A LARGE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, THE REST OF WHICH WAS FULL OF "DIRT, COCKROACHES AND NOT MUCH ELSE". VIRTUALLY ALL MEMBERS OF GROUP OBSERVED THAT IN MANY CASES FACILITIES IDENTIFIED FOR RETENTION WERE SERIOUSLY UNDER-UTILIZED. THEY TOOK SPECIAL ACCOUNT OF AREA NORTH OF PIER 20, INCLUDING DRIVE THROUGH DIABLO TO DREDGING DIVISION AND SPINNING CLUB AREAS. THEY NOTED THAT MUCH OF AREA BETWEEN DIABLO AND PIER 20 WAS SAME SORT OF SWAMP AS HAD FORMERLY EXISTED IN AREA WHERE PIER 18 WAS CONSTRUCTED.

7. ATLANTIC SIDE: SINCE EMBOFF DID NOT ACCOMPANY (SEE SEPTTEL COVERING WALLER-SCHATZMAN CONVERSATION WITH CONTRERAS), FOLLOWING IS BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED ORALLY BY COL. CONFIDENTIAL

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WALLER OF SOUTHCOM. PANAMANIAN SET HELICOPTER DOWN AT FRANCE FIELD, WHERE CONTRERAS "COUNTED HOUSES" IN PANCANAL HOUSING AREA THERE. AT COCO SOLO, PANAMANIAN SAID THAT TENNIS COURTS ADJACENT TO CRISTOBAL HIGH SCHOOL WERE NOT IN FACT LOCATED WHERE US TECHNICAL TEAM MAP SAID THEY WERE. AT TELFERS ISLAND, GROUP SPOKE WITH TWO WORKERS WHO WERE DUMPING DREDGE SPOILS. PANAMAINIAN ASKED WHAT SORT OF BOTTOM EXISTED IN AREA. WORKERS REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO SOLID FOUNDATION TO SPEAK OF; PANCANAL HAD BEEN DUMPING SPOILS THERE FOR YEARS AND CONSTRUCTION IN AREA WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

8. IN CONVERSATION AFTER COMPLETION OF THE THREE VISITS, JAEN AND VELASQUEZ CHARACTERIZED ALL OF THEM AS "VERY USEFUL". THEY FELT THAT THE VISITS HAD REVEALED CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN MAP AND REAL WORLD. THEY REPEATED THEIR OFT-HEARD OBSERVATION THAT THE BEST WAY FOR THIS ASPECT OF LANDS AND WATERS DISCUSSIONS TO AVOID PROBLEMS WOULD BE TO CONDUCT SUCH OBSERVATION VISITS JOINTLY IN ORDER THAT BOTH TECHNICAL TEAMS COULD AGREE ON WHAT IN THE REAL WORLD WAS BEING REPRESENTED ON THE MAPS. JORDEN

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